

**Mansfield School Committee Meeting
Special Education Workshop
Minutes for Tuesday, November 8, 2016
Assistant Superintendent's Office**

A meeting of the Mansfield School Committee was opened and called to order at 6 p.m.

Members Present

Kiera O'Neil, Chair
Lynn Cavicchi, Vice Chair
Linda Fernando
Laurent Scher
Jenn Walsh

Others present: Mary Ellen Sowyrda, special education legal counsel; Zeff Gianetti, Teresa Murphy, Bernadette Conroy, Jim Leonard, Nancy Beier, Dave Farinella, and Yogen Chemburkar, Finance Committee School Liaison

Discussion

Zeff Gianetti explained the purpose of the workshop was to provide an overview to the School Committee and the Finance Committee representative on the changing nature of special education requirements under the law, special ed placements, staff case load, and recent legal cases/case law. Mary Ellen Sowyrda outlined the cornerstone of special education law, which is to provide educational services in the least restrictive environment, and the district's legal obligation to address educating the whole child. Discussion centered around the changing needs of students and special education. Bernadette Conroy explained the various approaches the district uses to support student needs, from Response to Intervention to district residential outplacement. Dave Farinella gave an overview of the evening school and how it addresses the needs of students who need credit recovery and students who did not graduate with their class, as well as a limited number of fee-based students from other districts. He noted that the evening school has also seen an increase in day students who are unable to make it through the school day due to social-emotional issues. The group also discussed the need for parent education around social-emotional issues, particularly at the lower grade levels, and the type of supports and resources the district may need to provide in order to address the changing needs of students in the district.

At 7:45 p.m., Kiera O'Neil asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion was made by Lynn Cavicchi and seconded by Jenn Walsh. **Motion UC 5-0.**

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Cavicchi
Vice Chair
School Committee